

# The Middle Michigan Times

A Publication of Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Spring 2006

Volume 5, Issue 1



## Inside this Issue:

NAWB Conference	1
Character Counts!	1
Mock Interview Day	2
Clare Graduates	3

*“All virtue is summed up in dealing justly”  
-Aristotle*

### Middle Michigan Development Corporation

111 South University  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989.772.2858  
Fax: 989.773.2115

[www.mmdc.org](http://www.mmdc.org)

## Michiganders Travel to Washington, D.C.

Carolyn Bennett, Director of Promotions and Workforce Development at Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Workforce Investment Board member, attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum 2006.

Held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. February 25-28, the annual meeting provided a unique forum for examining the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for NAWB and its members.

This year's annual Forum focused on the impact global trends will continue to exert on America's economy, and how they pose particular challenges for the workforce as well as business and industry expansion. Off-shoring, competition from global markets, and rapid advancement of technology in the workplace are compelling realities for both employers and their employees.... All are changing the way Americans work and will work into the foreseeable future.

With more than 40 workshops to choose from, Carolyn Bennett de-

ecided to draw her attention to workshops that discussed economic development as it pertains to workforce development. "My goal was to bring something of value back to the Central Michigan Region," Bennett said. "I feel it's important to be able to apply what I learned to my local community."

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Janet Bloomfield, Vice President for Employment Training of Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium and Carolyn Bennett, Director of Promotions and Workforce Development at Middle Michigan Development Corporation, share a moment at the NAWB Forum 2006.*

## Education Conference with a Little CHARACTER

DeVos Place of Grand Rapids, Michigan was the location for the 2006 Michigan Conference on Career Education where Carolyn Bennett, Director of Promotions and Workforce Development, at Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Michelle Hyde, Extension Educator of

(MSUE) 4-H Clare County presented CHARACTER COUNTS!<sup>SM</sup> to Michigan educators.

This year's conference theme was, "All Education Is Career Education: Bringing Academics and Career and Technical Education Together."

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Travel to Washington

(Continued from page 1)

Forum 2006 is NAWB's signature event, attracting over 2,000 workforce investment leaders and executives from around the country. At this conference NAWB members learned two important objectives. The first is to continue gaining greater understanding of how to use federal resources as "investment capital" to help com-



munities meet the workforce challenges that global economic trends are increasingly imposing. The second objective is being able to exchange knowledge, ideas, and solutions among each other while at the conference. These objectives and others that will soon follow will truly be the primary objectives of forums to come.

Middle Michigan Development Corporation  
111 S. University  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



## Thought you should know...

Please Contact :

Kathy Methner or Carolyn Bennett

Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Phone: 989-772-2858 Fax: 989-773-2115 info@mmdc.org

Middle Michigan Development Corporation invites you to check out their newly updated **website** at **www.mmdc.org**.

The Middle Michigan Development Corporation **Quarterly Board Meeting** will be held at 7:30 a.m. on July 26, 2006 at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn

## Mock Interview Day a Success!

On Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, high school students from Clare and Isabella counties gathered for a morning that would enhance their future. The event was known as Mock Interview Day, which is hosted annually by Middle Michigan Development Corporation and sponsored this year by DTE Energy, CMU, The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Clare County Enterprise Community, Bandit Industries, Chemical Bank-Clare, Isabella Bank & Trust, Melling Products, and

Morbank Industries.

Mock Interview Day is a four hour event devoted to providing students with valuable information on the interview process. Mock Interview Day gave students the opportunity to be interviewed by an employer, and have resumes and job applications critiqued. Also as part of this day, students had the chance to learn professional business tips such as what is appropriate interview at-

tire, proper interviewing etiquette, and how to research a company.

Students who attended Mock Interview Day benefited greatly. "She offered me a lot of hints and pointers that would put me ahead of the game and into the working crowd," said Taylor Campbell, Harrison High School senior (as cited in the *Morning Sun*). Some of the other benefits that students reaped involved being able to apply what

**(Center):** Area business people interview students at Mock Interview Day 2006.

**(Left):** Terry Stacy, President of Mt. Pleasant IDC

**(Right):** Mark Hommel, HR Manager, Eagle-Picher Automotive.



they've learned in school, meeting with a business professional in the career path they are looking toward and networking with business professionals.

Although the students benefited from Mock Interview Day, they weren't the only ones who did so. Local business professionals also gained from this event, as these students have the potential of becoming their future workforce.

In addition to this, the greatest advantage for business professionals was their community outreach.

225 plus, juniors and seniors from various schools is what made Mock Interview Day a success! Students from Harrison, Beal City, Clare, Mt. Pleasant Area Technical Center, Mt. Pleasant Christian Academy, and Shepard High School were all represented. Unfortunately, a two-hour delay

prevented Farwell from participating, but we know they'll be back next year. Along with the different high schools, there were also a variety of business professions from both counties at the event representing all the six career pathways, which include Arts and Communication; Business, Management, Marketing and Technology; Engineering/Manufacturing and Indus-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Mock Interviews

(Continued from page 2)

trial Technology; Health Sciences; Human Services; and Natural Resources and Agriscience.

Mock Interview Day was an experience that students will truly cherish. "It was definitely a good experience for me and now I know what to expect so when I'm in a real interview I am prepared for it" said Dan Green, Harrison High School senior (as cited in the *Morning Sun*). From the interviews with employees

in their field of interest, to Breakout Sessions that discussed how to dress for success, identity protection, interpersonal skills and workplace character, to critiquing resumes and job applications, and the always popular Park Library tour, Mock Interview Day was truly an awesome event and one to look forward to next year.



Pat Burkholder and Jim Stockel, Mt. Pleasant Area Technical Center present "Dress for Success" at Mock Interview Day.

## Clare County Graduates its First Leadership Class



**Back Row:** (left to right) Blane Hiscox, Amy Hovey, Janet Spencer, David Basinger  
**Front Row:** (left to right) Abby Kulick, Jan Owens, Penny Parsons, Ann Doherty  
**Missing:** Scott Hayer, Tammy Carlstrom, Renee Parrish, Brenda Mather, LeAnn Comer

The Clare County Leadership Institute is about to graduate its first class of leaders. Thirteen participants from Clare, Farwell, and Harrison began a nine-month long training program from September to May preparing them for leadership roles in their communities and in the county.

Those who enrolled in the program spent one Friday a month learning more about their community and gaining skills necessary to fill positions on committees and boards in Clare County.

Kathy Methner, Director of Business Development at Middle Michigan Development Corporation

and facilitator of the leadership institute said; "This group of future community leaders is great. I wouldn't hesitate to invite any one of the graduates to sit on a board or committee in the community."

After graduation, the names and addresses of the graduates will be listed in the three Chamber of Commerce offices in Clare County.

Anyone looking for board members or committee members can call their local chamber for the names of graduates of the program.

For an introduction to **Business Ethics Workshops**

## CHARACTER

(Continued from page 1)

Specifically, the conference focused on the need for academic rigor and relevance to the work world in all secondary and post-secondary coursework to better prepare students for higher education and careers.

Because of their concern about the character development of youth Carolyn and Michelle shared their knowledge of CHARACTER COUNTS! In the workshop, attendees learned how to involve the entire community (especially schools) in teaching youth the importance and value of character development. Also, participants learned how adults can serve as role mod-



Michelle Hyde, Extension Educator of (MSUE) 4-H Clare County

els for the Six Pillars of Character-Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Carolyn and Michelle believe that CHARACTER COUNTS! is an important concept to expose to youth. "We have seen the positive impact CHARACTER COUNTS! has had on the Central Michigan Region and want to share that experience with other communities," said Carolyn Bennett.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.